

March 4, 2015
Board of Agriculture Update
Plant Industry Division
Dawn Rafferty, Administrator

- The Division is currently updating all NPD 14s (work performance standards) and NPD 15s (evaluations). Our goal is to have all of these complete by the second week in March.
- Participation in the organic program is increasing: there have been nine new clients signed up in the last nine months. The program manager is working on marketing the program with our marketing team.
- The environmental services and pest control operator licensing/education staff have just finished a week long EPA sponsored Pesticide Inspector Residential Training in Vegas.
-- The Pesticide Inspector Residential Training (PIRT) is a National inspector-training program to keep a well-trained state and tribal inspection force. The Office of Compliance (OC) facilitates the development of these training courses for state and tribal inspectors. EPA provides funding to a volunteer state to host the PIRT course to which other state and tribal inspectors are invited. The training was attended by inspectors from nearly every state.
- In a cooperative effort, the Arizona Department of Agriculture notified us of an unauthorized, uncertified nursery shipping plants to Nevada that were potentially infested with Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA). NDA entomology staff immediately traveled to Vegas, located the remaining plants in local nurseries and inspected for RIFA. No evidence of RIFA was found and plants that had been on Hold were released for sale. All nurseries cooperated and were pleased with our rapid response.
- The online pesticide registration system is working well, all renewals (10,439 products) have been processed for 2015 and the renewal for new products is continuing. There are still a few minor 'bugs' in the system, and the contractor has been very quick in reacting to our requests in fixing these. We look forward to requiring all registrations to be done on line next year. This system not only reduces staff time in the registration program, but it allows us to more layers of data, organize it more efficiently and be able to run reports that are more comprehensive and useful. We look forward to having all our registration and licensing transactions eventually being done online.
- The Annual Small Farm conference was held at the Nugget in February. There were approximately 200 attendees and NDA staff conducted several very successful workshops and talks from organic certification to crop diseases and control. As always, this venue provides a great forum for local producers to interact with agencies, the University, vendors and each other to share information and make connections.
- Due to warm winter conditions we have already produced strychnine for rodent control for spring 2015. Of the 213 bottles mixed last week, 177 have already been sold.
- The range health and noxious weeds programs are heavily involved in rangeland issues involving the sage grouse potential listing, as well as ongoing landowner notifications for noxious weeds.

- The pest control operating licensing and education staff has finished relicensing. Las Vegas staff are working with Sparks staff to conduct pre termicide inspections in the northern part of the state.
- We hired an agriculturist to revitalize the seed certification program. He is working on becoming familiar with the seed producers in the state, state and federal laws, and surveying needs of the state seed industry.
- Normal inspections and activities are ongoing with all division programs. We are watching potential budget issues which could impact the level of inspections conducted.